Garrison Raps Kohn, Dr. Grey

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Says Office Hasn't Prevented Crime Probe

Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison Tuesday blasted statements made by the Metropolitan Crime Commission's new president Dr. J. D. Grey and managing director Aaron M. Kohn.

"Just after an Orleans Parish grand jury has completed the most intensive inquiry of recent years into organized crime," Garrison said, "these two worthies have issued a press release claiming that my office has prevented an inquiry into organized crime.

"The fact is that my office called before the grand jury every conceivable relevant witness to such an injuiry—including Gov. John J. McKeithen, Carlos Marcello and Thomas Burbank, state police superintendent." Garrison added that the only persons who "refused to testify fully" were David Chandler, Life magazine staffer, and Kohn.

"The truth is that there has been great progress against systematic vice in New Orleans in recent years. For the first time in the history of this city, every lottery owner has been sent to the penitentiary—where not one had ever been before.

"For the first time," Garrison continued, "an effective drive has been conducted against loan shark operations in New Orleans.

"It is a matter of common knowledge that the intensive operation of the New Orleans Police Department against narcotics, prostitution and handbooks has been exceedingly effective . . . that the present district attorney's office has increased the percentage of convictions in every category of vice."

Garrison said that the present DA's office has never lost a major case in six years, "nor has a single defendant ever walked out of the courtroom with an acquittal in a murder case in the last six years.

"Not one of these major improvements in law enforcement has been obtained with the help of Mr. Kohn. As a matter of fact, Mr. Kohn and the Metropolitan Crime Commission have not made any discernable contribution whatsoever to the major improvements of law enforcement which have occurred in New Orleans in recent years.

"To the contrary," Garrison said, "the Metropolitan Crime Commission has ben a consistent morale problem to the men engaged in law enforcement in New Orleans and has, if anything, been the major obstacle to progress in law enforcement."

Concluding his statement on Kohn and Dr. Grey, Garrison said, "The new team . . . is very strong on imagination and, with a little polishing, well may turn out to be one of the hottest acts since the old days of vaudeville."